

GENERAL NOTES

Avian Psychological Disturbance Resulting from Abnormal Coloration.—

As a note supplementary to the discussion of this subject by Frances Hamerstrom in the issue of this journal for March, 1942 (*Wilson Bulletin*, 54: 33), it may be remarked that the psychological disturbance occasioned in certain flocks of birds by abnormal coloration of one of their number is recorded as having been noticed at least 2,550 years ago. In the Book of Jeremiah, chapter XII, verse 9, to which the date 608 B.C. is commonly attributed, the prophet states:

"Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her."

The specific identity of the birds on which this remark is based is not indicated; it is not even known whether they were passerine birds. It is improbable that they were domestic fowls, for this prophecy preceded the carrying away of the Jews into Babylonian captivity (586 B.C.), while domestic fowls are not believed to have been introduced into Palestine until after the return from captivity, more than seventy years after the prophecy was made.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, 34 Grosvenor Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

American Bittern Wintering in Michigan.—In the midst of a marsh near the town of Erie in the southeastern corner of Michigan there is a large spring of mineral water which keeps a pool unfrozen throughout the coldest winter. Here in mid-winter have been seen a number of birds that are uncommon in this season elsewhere in the region.

On March 1, 1942, John Stophlet and I found there an American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) huddled, frozen, in a small depression. The body was emaciated. Apparently the bird had died since a snowfall of six days before. Louis W. Campbell has sight records of this species in the same location January 18, 1930, and February 18, 1933.—HAROLD F. MAYFIELD, 3311 Parkwood Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Some New Water Bird Records for Kentucky.—Satisfactory records of water birds, notably Charadriiformes, in Kentucky are exceedingly few because of the limited amount of material that has been collected. Consequently we wish to record a heron, two shorebirds and a tern collected during 1941.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*).—A beautiful male of this species was taken by Mengel on June 29, 1941 at the extreme northern end of Reelfoot Lake in Fulton County, Kentucky. This bird appears to be the first preserved specimen for the state. L. O. Pindar (*Wilson Bulletin*, 37, 1925: 81-82) mentions a Yellow-crowned Night Heron "seen" dead in Fulton County, September 1, 1887. These herons were regularly present in small numbers at the north end of Reelfoot Lake during late June, 1941. The bird collected was fully adult but the gonads appeared somewhat reduced.

American Knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*).—In company with Mary Louise Fagley, Elizabeth Grawemeyer, and J. Frank Cassel, all of Cornell University, Mengel visited the Falls of the Ohio River near Louisville, Kentucky on August 28, 1941. Cassel promptly noticed a strange shorebird among the "peeps." It was collected and proved to be a male Knot in full fall plumage. So far as we know it represents the first occurrence of the species in Kentucky.

Baird's Sandpiper, *Pisobia bairdi*.—Monroe secured a specimen of this sandpiper on September 1, 1941 at the lower end of the Falls of the Ohio. There are several previous sight records for the Louisville area, (Monroe and Mengel, *Kentucky*